

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
BEE

STATINTL

E. 166,689
S. 185,185

MAY 12 1965

CPYRGHT

The Public 'Secret'

The news story which revealed that the central intelligence agency had given a medal to Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot whose plane crashed in the Soviet Union in 1960, raises some interesting questions.

Since the news report said the award was made at a "secret" ceremony and Powers is not supposed to wear the medal or tell anybody about it, one can only wonder about the ability of the CIA to keep its secrets secret.

It has been five years since the crash of Powers' plane destroyed the summit meeting between Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and President Dwight D. Eisenhower and put the cold war back in the deep freeze.

Why honor Powers now, five years after the unfortunate incident? And why is a CIA "secret" ceremony the subject of a news article?

It also is interesting to note the Russians have publicly honored Colonel Rudolph Abel, their master spy who got caught here in America but was returned to the Soviet in trade for Powers.

It is far easier to understand the secrecy and intrigue surrounding a fictional James Bond than some of the aspects of present day real life professional spies.